

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: : PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST WILFRED BURCHETT LOSES DEFAMATION
SUIT AGAINST EX-SENATOR KANE

REF: CANBERRA 6640

1. DENIS WARNER, WELL-KNOWN PRO-AMERICAN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST, TELEPHONED ME AFTERNOON OF NOV. 1 TO STATE THAT COURT IN SYDNEY HAS ACQUITTED EX-SENATOR KANE AND OTHERS OF CHARGE OF DEFAMATION BROUGHT BY SELF-CONFESSED AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST JOURNALIST, WILFRED BURCHETT.

2. WARNER (WHO WAS ELATED) SAID THAT TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY PAUL KNISS, UNITED AIRLINES CAPTAIN AND FORMER U.S. POW IN KOREA, HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY TELLING AT TRIAL. JUDGE, IN SUMMING UP CASE, REFERRED TO KNISS TESTIMONY AT LENGTH AS GOING LONG WAY IN DEMONSTRATING THAT GERM WARFARE IN KOREA WAS A MYTH. WARNER NOTED THAT TESTIMONY BY CAPTAIN KNISS HAD INVOLVED HIS SPENDING TWO WEEKS IN AUSTRALIA RATHER THAN SEVERAL DAYS AS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. WARNER (WHO WOULD HIMSELF HAVE FACED SIMILAR DEFAMATION SUIT IF BURCHETT HAD WON) EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO EMBASSY AND TO DEPARTMENT FOR EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BACKGROUND INFO ON ISSUES RELATED TO TRIAL.

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3. I WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S INFORMALLY CONVEYING TO UNITED

AIRLINES, CHICAGO, OUR APPRECIATION (AS WELL AS THAT OF DEFENDANTS,
INCLUDING SENATOR KANE, AND DENIS WARNER) FOR CAPT. KNISS' VERY
HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE. BY HIS
TESTIMONY, CAPT. KNISS HAS SERVED THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED
STATES AS HE DID DURING A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE
U.S. AIR FORCE, AND DURING THE HARROWING PERIOD OF HIS
CONFINEMENT AS A POW IN KOREA.
GREEN

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